

**JOINT RESOLUTION APPLAUDING THE WORK OF
THE SALT LAKE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT HOSTAGE NEGOTIATION
TEAM AND DIRECTOR JESSICA WATERS**

WHEREAS, *the members of the Salt Lake City Police Department (SLCPD) are regularly called upon when residents' lives are endangered; and*

WHEREAS, *SLCPD has a highly trained Hostage Negotiation Team (HNT), composed of officers who are specifically tasked with responding to dynamic hostage situations; and*

WHEREAS, *the HNT works directly with people in crisis who are greatly distressed; and*

WHEREAS, *the HNT currently includes the following officers: Lt. Derek Dimond, Sgt. Mason Givens, Sgt. Scott Hall, Social Worker Jessica Waters, Det. Joseph Taylor, Det. Marie Stewart, Det. Josh Harris, Det. Matt Voorhees, and Det. Dave Sonntag; and*

WHEREAS, *the SLCPD has prioritized responding appropriately to those with mental health struggles by establishing the Community Connection Center, a valuable City resource that aims to provide a safe environment for people to access individualized care, support, community resources, and an alternative to a law-enforcement-only response to crisis; and*

WHEREAS, *Jessica Waters serves as the director of the SLCPD's Community Connection Center and leads a team of social workers who work directly with the public; and*

WHEREAS, *as a trained social worker, Director Waters has vast expertise working with people experiencing life challenges and mental health crises; and*

WHEREAS, *Director Waters recently furthered her education and added depth to the SLCPD's HNT by becoming trained as a negotiator; and*

WHEREAS, *on the evening of Friday, January 22, 2021, a dangerous situation occurred in Salt Lake City involving an armed individual barricaded in a home with his young children; and*

WHEREAS, *the SLCPD's HNT swiftly responded to assist and protect the innocent lives inside and relied upon their professional judgment by requesting assistance from Director Waters, as the individual expressed his distrust in police officers; and*

WHEREAS, *Director Waters exhibited bravery, compassion, and patience in communicating with the agitated individual; and*

WHEREAS, *Director Waters and her SLCPD colleagues worked together throughout the negotiation; and*

WHEREAS, *Director Waters and the HNT were able to successfully diffuse the potentially violent situation, resulting in a positive outcome for the victims and the on-site first responders.*

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

that Salt Lake City expresses deep appreciation for the entire Hostage Negotiation Team and particularly Director Waters for their dedicated work, committed compassion, and successful de-escalation during a highly stressful situation, ensuring the safety and well-being of Salt Lake City's residents.

Adopted this _____ day of February 2021

Erin Mendenhall
Salt Lake City Mayor

Amy Fowler, Chair
Salt Lake City Council Member, District Seven

*James Rogers, Vice Chair
Salt Lake City Council Member, District One*

*Andrew Johnston
Salt Lake City Council Member, District Two*

*Chris Wharton
Salt Lake City Council Member, District Three*

*Ana Valdemoros
Salt Lake City Council Member, District Four*

*Darin Mano
Salt Lake City Council Member, District Five*

*Daniel Dugan
Salt Lake City Council Member, District Six*